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GREENPEACE CASE: NEW FRENCH LINK

Intelligence Agent Is Said to Have Infiltrated the Group

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PARIS, Aug. 22 — A woman suspected of having infiltrated the environmental group Greenpeace before a ship belonging to the group was bombed in New Zealand last month was identified in the French press today as an officer in the French external intelligence agency.

Agence France-Presse and the weekly magazine L'Express identified her as Christine Cabon, a 34-year-old lieutenant. The woman, previously identified as Frédérique Bonlieu, is being sought by the New Zealand police in connection with the sinking of the Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior, on July 10.

The reports came hours after the New Zealand police announced in Wellington that another woman, one of two people charged with the actual sabotage of the vessel, is a captain in the French Army. French press reports to this effect had appeared last week.

The latest press reports, which were not confirmed by French officials, follow many indications in the last two weeks that the French external intelligence agency was linked to the bombing of the Greenpeace ship.

Lieutenant Cabon is believed to have posed as a Greenpeace sympathizer and to have passed information to the saboteurs who attached two bombs to the hull of the ship, sinking it and killing a photographer aboard. The New Zealand police have issued an international warrant for her arrest.

Woman in Custody Identified

In New Zealand, a police spokesman identified the woman being held in the actual bombing as Dominique Prieur. She was arrested with a man who said his name is Alain Turenge.

The woman, who was traveling with a false Swiss passport under the name Sophie Turenge, has been charged with murder and arson and is expected to stand trial next month.

Two weeks ago, President François Mitterrand appointed a special investigator, Bernard Tricot, to report on the possible involvement of French agents in the Rainbow Warrior attack. French officials have said that Mr. Tricot's report, which will be followed by a televised statement on the affair by Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, will be issued by the middle of next week.

As the investigation proceeds, French newspapers have published a series of disclosures, many of them based on information from French officials, that have led to a widespread if unconfirmed conclusion that the intelligence agents were responsible for the attack on the Greenpeace ship.

Intelligence Role Assumed

The role of intelligence agents is so widely assumed that, barring a major surprise, the most eagerly anticipated aspect of Mr. Tricot's report was not whether French officials were involved in the affair, but at what level.

The pattern of disclosures indicates an effort to attribute the attack to an unauthorized initiative by French agents in the field. Several days ago, for example, Agence France-Presse reported that three men being sought by the New Zealand police in the case were working for French intelligence. The three, missing since July 21, were crew members of a sloop, the Ourvea, that is believed to have brought the sabotage team to New Zealand.